[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

***Appointment of a Committee to Enquire into the Working of the Department of Ayurveda*—(Continued).**

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Sir, I have been listening carefully to the arguments advanced on both sides of this House for and against the resolution now under consideration by the House. I find that I cannot make up my mind to support this resolution as it is worded, and as it was commented upon by the members on this side of the House. To me it appears, Sir, that asking the Government to appoint a committee to enquire, as well, into the charges that have been alleged against the officer concerned, would amount to arrogating the powers of the Government. The matter is already under enquiry at the hands of the Government. I therefore think that it would not be advisable to appoint a committee to enquire into this matter.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): What is the matter now under the enquiry of the Government?

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): The irregularities; that is my information.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is it his information that the Government are making an enquiry into the matter?

MR. PAUL V. DANIEL (*Agastisvaram*): Yes; that is my information.

As rightly observed by the learned Law Member, Mr. Subba Aiyar, if all the charges alleged against the officer concerned are found to be true, the officer will be duly dealt with by the Government. But, as for the matter of suggesting measures for the encouragement and expansion of the department, I am in full sympathy with the members of this House. If a good case is made out and if it is possible that such a thing can be done by a committee of officials and non-officials, of course, I shall gladly support such a motion.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I come to the front, Sir?

PRESIDENT: Yes.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Sir, I have been listening with interest to the reply made by the official member in answer to the statements made by me in moving the resolution. I was not surprised to find that there was absolutely no explanation for the several allegations made by me as I was sure that the position I had taken up was unassailable. Of one thing I can assure the Chief Secretary, if any assurance were needed, that my object in urging an enquiry, as the words of the resolution unmistakably prove, was not to uproot the plant so carefully guarded by the Government, but only to weed out the growth that obstructs and hinders its own growth at its

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young and tender age. It was my anxiety for its welfare that prompted me to seek permission to move this resolution. During the course of the discussion I heard gentlemen, except perhaps Mr. Paul V. Daniel,—well acquainted and not so well acquainted with the Director—speaking in terms of condemnation against the present management of the Ayurveda Department. I am as well acquainted with Mr. Sankara Menon as any one else, and I have very great regard for his ability and attainments. But I am only concerned with the department and I am sure it will prosper under his care if only the existing evils are examined and removed.

The Chief Secretary referred in detail to the history of the department, which, I take it, was intended as an argument against the several allegations made by me. But I venture to submit that this is not an argument, and I am not alone in this view. All the members on this side of the House who spoke on the subject were almost unanimous in thinking that the arguments I advanced have not been met at all and that the defence put up by him was no defence at all. One of my friends did not even hesitate to characterise portions of the reply as evasive. I do not, therefore, think it necessary to take up the time of the Council with an examination of that reply. Indeed there is nothing to which any reply is called for.

But I have to deal with the evidence and the arguments offered by two other members on the other side of the House. If evidence were going to be tendered on the side of the Government, the best evidence that should have been offered was the evidence of the accounts themselves, about the publication of which so much was said on both sides. Mr. Subba Aiyar was very emphatic in his condemnation of the hearsay evidence on which I am supposed to have founded my arguments. But he evidently forgot that he, or rather the Government which he represents, was in possession of that kind of evidence with which alone he would be satisfied. I am a lawyer myself and it did not strike me that I should have come armed with evidence here as in a court of law. I am surprised that Mr. Subba Aiyar should suggest the application of the technical rules of procedure of a court of law in dealing in this House with questions of administrative policy. I was all along under the impression that an administrator ought to travel beyond the records and seek for all available information from every quarter. Administration would be difficult indeed if available sources of information were shut out on technical grounds like these. We also heard so much about other rules of evidence, as, for example, the rule that only persons who have got personal experience should offer evidence. The mere statement of this theory is enough for its condemnation. After all—

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*): Is there not a responsibility on a member of this House, when he makes a certain number of allegations, to say if he has verified the truth of the allegations?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I do not understand what Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar says.

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*): Does there not lie a responsibility on a member of this House when he makes certain number of allegations to say also whether he has taken any trouble to test their accuracy?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I do not deny that. I am coming to it.

After all, where was the necessity for all the evidence in a matter so plain and unrefuted? I ask, have the facts been met?

There was the implication of a more serious charge against me which is contained in Mr. Subba Aiyar's speech. He referred to the jealousy of private practitioners on account of the existence of the Government pharmacy and the stories circulated about the exorbitant prices and the inferior quality of the medicine supplied by the pharmacy. He apparently thinks that credulous members have taken them up and served them in this House. I regret that Mr. Subba Aiyar—

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): One word by way of explanation. I took it from Mr. M. N. Pillai's speech. He himself suggested it. It may be that the members are ill-informed.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Am I to understand that Mr. M. N. Pillai's statement also is hearsay evidence?

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): I only suggested that it might be due to the fact that members are ill-informed.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): He apparently thinks that credulous members have taken them up and served them in this House. I regret that Mr. Subba Aiyar should have made such a statement. Honourable members on this side of the House have as much sense of responsibility as any of the members sitting on the other side. Though we have not the advantage of having as much information as the other side possesses, we take care that the source from which we receive information is as reliable as possible, and we do take the greatest pains to satisfy ourselves as to the accuracy of the statements that we make. To suggest that we have not been fully alive to our responsibilities in the matter of making statements and assertions implies an attitude against which I emphatically protest. (Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai: "*Hear, hear*"). The very fact that there is a difference of opinion as to the quality of the medicine is a ground for an enquiry. After all, the evidence that the quality of medicine is good is irrelevent so long as the other allegations remain unanswered.

The Law Member says that, if there are irregularities and malpractices, there is the Departmental Enquiries Regulation under which action may be taken. Very serious allegations are made against the Ayurveda Department in this Council. But Mr. Subba Aiyar would dismiss them as hearsay evidence. Would Mr. Subba Aiyar, however, tell us, how many departmental enquires were made during the past ten or fifteen

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years? There have been, as a matter of fact, very serious accusations against several officers but I have only sought for an enquiry in regard to the working of the Ayurveda Department with a view to its development and progress. As to the argument against the importation of foreigners I need say little, as I never wanted it and as the argument comes with such ill grace from those who were advocating it the other day.

After all, what is it that I am asking the Council to do? Nothing but a request for a committee to suggest measures for the further encouragement and expansion of the Ayurveda Department. To say that, because an officer's conduct is criticised, therefore no such enquiry is necessary, is rather not quite acceptable, at any rate, so far as I am concerned. The Government themselves, under the circumstances, should have appointed such a committee. I am sorry that the request when made is opposed.

I will only refer to the points on which I desired an enquiry should be made, and I would earnestly pray the house to adopt the resoultion moved by me. It is, as Mr. Hoogewerf observed, a simple and modest one.

The following are the points on which I requested that an enquiry should be made:

The extension and improvement of the grant-in-aid system, the improvement of Ayurvedic instruction, the extension and improvement of the hospitals, and the question of maintaining the pharmacy and the botanical garden in Trivandrum.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, the criticisms levelled against the Ayurveda Department, by the learned mover of the resolution and the other members who supported him, relate to the following institutions under the charge of the Director of Ayurveda, *viz.*,

(1) the grant-in-aid *vaidyasalas*;
(2) the hospital and dispensary;
(3) the Ayurveda College and the grant-in-aid *pathasalas*; and
(4) the Ayurveda pharmacy;

I shall take up these institutions *seriatim*.

(1). *Grant-in-aid vaidyasalas*. The points urged against these institutions are:

(*a*) that during the period from 1092 to 1098 the number of *vaidyasalas* decreased by 2 per cent.;

(*b*) that there have been several complaints regarding the way in which the *vaidyasalas* were conducted;

(*c*) that there has been no improvement in the matter of efficiency or extension of these institutions; and

(*d*) that the Director has not been inspecting these institutions satisfactorily.

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[Mr. P. K. Narayana Pillai.]

The statement that during the period from 1092 to 1098 the number of *vaidyasalas* was reduced by 2 per cent. is incorrect and misleading. The policy of Government in regard to these institutions is clearly laid down in G. O. Dis. No. 498/G of 21 dated 18th March, 1921. It is a pity that the learned member has not seen this G. O. though it was published in the *Gazette*. This G. O. proposes to raise the number of *vaidyasalas* to 108 in the mofussil at the rate of one for four *pakuthies*, and 2 additional ones for towns, fixing the total number at 120 to be reached in the fullness of time. In pursuance of this policy, ten additional *vaidyasalas* have been newly sanctioned, and notwithstanding the abolition of defunct institutions, the total number of *vaidyasalas* is 82 against 74 in 1092. It cannot, therefore, be said that there has been no expansion of these institutions.

The allegation that there has been no improvement in the matter of efficiency is equally baseless. The correct test of efficiency of these institutions is the increasing demand for medical aid, the increase in the number of patients treated and the increase in the percentage of the number cured. The number of patients treated by grant-in-aid *Vaidyans* rose from 14 lakhs in 1093 to 19 lakhs in 1098. As regards the statement that there have been several complaints against the management of *vaidyasalas*, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai does not say in respect of which institution the complaints were made—whether they were made to the Director, and if so, whether he declined to take cognisance of them.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Have the Government any statistics concerning the number of persons treated before the system commenced?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The system commenced in the year 1071. We have no statistics relating to the number of patients treated before the introduction of the system.

Presumably the complaints were against useless *Vaidyans* all of whom have now been eliminated. The one real defect brought to light in connection with the administration of these institutions is that they have not all been personally inspected by the Director.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Which is the portion of my speech that has been referred to?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Several complaints were made against the management of the *vaidyasalas*.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Am I to understand that all these complaints are false?

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is it a fact that complaints were made, in the first place?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is exactly what I am asking. Was there any complaint made to the Director and did he refuse to take cognisance of it? That is what I ask.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are the Government aware of any complaint?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have no information.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Have the Government asked the Director, at the time the resolution was sent up, whether there was any complaint?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There was no necessity for it. So, the Government did not ask him.

As I said, presumably, the complaints were against the useless *Vaidyans* all of whom have now been eliminated. The one real defect brought to light in connection with the administration of these institutions is that they have not all been personally inspected by the Director. Government have already taken note of this and insisted on the Director moving about in camp more largely.

(2). *The Hospital and Dispensary.* The defects pointed out in respect of this institution are:

(*a*) that absolutely no improvement whatever has been made in this branch of the department;

(*b*) that it was very largely availed of by the people during the first five months of its establishment, but that there has been no progress since then; and

(*c*) that the decoctions and medicines sent to the hospital are not of the best quality.

The medicines supplied to the hospital are from the Ayurveda pharmacy and there is no foundation for the allegation that they are inferior in quality. I shall refer to this again when I speak of the pharmacy. It is a travesty of truth to say that the number of patients treated in the hospital has begun to decline. The published figures show that the number has been steadily on the increase. It was over 23,000 in 1094, over 25,000 in 1095, over 29,000 in 1096 and over 30,000 in 1097.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Is there any means of verifying these figures? The Darbar Physician inspects the various hospitals and checks the various figures. I want to know whether there is any such check or verification of these figures.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Director of Ayurveda is expected to go about and inspect the various institutions. These are the figures furnished by the Director of Ayurveda. We have to rely on them.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): I wish to know whether any member of this Council has raised the question that the departmental figures are not reliable.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think we shall have to rely on the departmental figures.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Has anybody raised that question ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No. There was, however, a decline in the number of patients in the year 1098, the number treated during the year being only over 24,000.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Are the Government in a position to explain the decline in the year 1098 ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): We cannot draw any inference from the figure for this particular year alone, because there was a steady increase in the previous years.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have the Government called for an explanation for the decline in that year ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

Now the treatment of 10,000 persons during the first five months of the establishment of the hospitals is considered satisfactory by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. This works out at 24,000 patients a year, and judged by this standard, the number treated during 1098 must be considered satisfactory. In regard to the observation that this branch of the department has not been extended, I beg to point out that only five years have elapsed since the establishment of the hospital, and the opening of fresh institutions can come in only gradually. The necessary funds must be available and efficient *Vaidyans* with the hall-mark of qualification should also be forthcoming to run the institutions. In this connection I should invite the attention of the House to the reply given by the Dewan at the nineteenth session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly to the representations made by Messrs. Kochukunju Pillai and Kochunni Vaidyan on the subject. The Dewan explicitly said that Government would continue to devote more and more attention as time advanced to the development of the Ayurvedic system.

Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai says that it is a matter for enquiry whether a few more hospitals and dispensaries could not be established and whether some of the major municipalities may not be asked to maintain hospitals within their limits, and points out that these matters may be referred to a committee. The provision for medical relief is one of discretionary functions of municipalities under Regulation V of 1095, and a committee is not necessary to enquire into this matter or into the question of extension of the system of Ayurveda, in regard to which the Government have already declared what their policy is.

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(3) *The Ayurveda College and the grant-in-aid Pathasalas.* So far as I can see, the only specific criticism made against these institutions is that there are no published rules for regulating the admission of students. In regard to this, I may be permitted to point out that only those students who pass the third year examination at the Ayurveda *Pathasala* are admitted into the college classes. I may also mention for the information of the House that rules regarding the admission of students in the college and grant-in-aid Ayurveda High Schools have been codified and submitted to the Government by the Director. They are under consideration.

(4) *The Ayurveda Pharmacy.* This has come in for the largest share of criticism. The main defects pointed out are :

(*a*) that no proper accounts are maintained in the institution ;

(*b*) that no audit was conducted till 1098 ;

(*c*) that the supply of articles to the institution is not arranged under a system of contract ;

(*d*) that the prices paid for the articles are exorbitant ;

(*e*) that no sale list of medicines is available or has been published ;

(*f*) that the medicines sold are inferior in quality, and that their prices are high compared to those charged by private *Vaidyans* in Travancore and elsewhere; and

(*g*) that the Government are incurring a serious loss, without at the same time benefiting the public.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*) : Does the member mean to say that I made the statement that the prices are very high ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not know whether Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai made that statement or not. That was the impression left in my mind on hearing the various speeches of the members of this House.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : May I know who made that statement ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I cannot say. I do not remember that. I gathered it from the speeches of the members on the other side of the House.

It is true that one of the Account Officers was able to audit the accounts of the pharmacy only in 1098, *i. e.*, four years after it was opened. Such delays are inevitable seeing that the number of Account Officers available for outside audit is small.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*) : I wish to know whether the audit was not made after the matter was brought to the notice of the Government by an interpellation by this Council.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I am not sure.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*). How many Account Officers are there under the Travancore Government?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): One Chief Account Officer and five Assistant Account Officers. There are two officers for outside audit work.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Who inspected and audited the accounts of the Ayurveda pharmacy—the Chief Account Officer, or one of the Assistant Account Officers?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Senior Assistant Account Officer went there.

Such delays are inevitable, seeing that the number of Account Officers available for outside audit is small, while the number of institutions to be inspected is considerable. In any case the blame for the belated inspection cannot be thrown on the Director or his department. The audit of the accounts of the pharmacy has disclosed three outstanding defects, *viz.*, (1) the purchase of raw materials required for the manufacture of medicines without resorting to auction or calling for tenders, (2) the payment of widely divergent prices for the articles, and (3) the non-maintenance of certain accounts which the Account Officer considers necessary for avoiding possible frauds and leakages. Government are considering whether the contract system should not be insisted on in regard to the supply of articles required for the institution.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Chief Secretary tell us whether the pharmacy is not working at a loss?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say whether it is working at a loss or not. I am coming to that later on.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): You say that the prices are divergent. Is it a euphemistic way of saying that systematically higher prices are paid for purchases for the pharmacy?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The prices charged are not invariably high except in the case of some articles.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Will the Chief Secretary tell us whether the prices have always been systematically uniform?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that the prices charged have been in all cases high. But in some cases they have been very high.

As regards the accounts to be maintained in the pharmacy no forms have so far been prescribed, and the Director has been maintaining those accounts which he considers necessary. The maintenance of an elaborate system of accounts would, in the opinion of the Director, necessitate a strengthening of the existing staff. All these points are being considered by the Government.

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MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether there is a separate account in the hospital and whether that account has been compared with the accounts of the pharmacy and both checked?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe it must have been compared. In regard to the exorbitant rates of prices said to have been paid by the Director for the supply of raw materials, pointed reference was made by several members on the other side of the House to the purchase of *marotti* oil. Two tins of that oil were purchased for Rs. 52 in 1097.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to tell us whether each tin contained more than one *edangali* of *marotti* oil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe that one tin will contain more than twelve *edangalies*.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): In this particular case, will the Chief Secretary be pleased to tell us the quantity of *marotti* oil in each tin?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Director only says that two tins of *marotti* oil were purchased in 1097 for Rs. 52. That means that each tin contained more than 10 *edangalies*.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): May I know the ordinary market rate for one tin of oil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am coming to that.

In regard to this, the Director points out that the ordinary crude oil that goes under the name *marotti* oil cannot be administered to patients internally even though it could be obtained cheap and that the price paid for refined oil can by no means be considered high, seeing that good oil is sold in Calcutta at Rs. 10 per seer, according to the price list published by Dr. Gananath Sen. This works out at Rs. 90 per tin.

P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was this particular oil purchased in the market and, if so, where?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think it was purchased from a local contractor.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): There are no contractors for the pharmacy. Was it purchased from the Chalai bazaar? Where was it refined?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was refined under the supervision of Mr. Sankara Menon.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Are the price of the oil and the cost of refining entered in the accounts separately, and was any remuneration given to Mr. Sankara Menon for his work in connection with the refinement of the oil? Where was the refinement made—I mean, by the contractor?

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am told by the Director that the refinement was done by the contractor under his supervision.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery cum Minachil*): Was there any contractor for the supply of medicines?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Can you give the name of the contractor who refined the oil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe it was Mr. Sivatanu Pillai who did it.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN (*Shertallai*): Does the account contain any mention of the quantity and quality of the oil?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The accounts mention that two tins of *marotti* oil were purchased for Rs. 52. There is no specific mention in them as to the quantity or quality.

MR. M. K. KHADIR PILLAI (*Nominated*): Is the Chief Secretary aware that large quantities of *marotti* seeds and oil are being exported annually from Travancore to Calcutta and other places?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; I know.

P. S. Variar of Kottakal sells refined *marotti* oil at Re. 1 per ounce.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Will the Chief Secretary tell us whether the oil supplied by Mr. Sivatanu Pillai is as refined and as medicated as the one supplied by P. S. Variar's factory?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I never saw it myself. What the Director says is that the oil is fit for medicinal purposes.

Then as regards the difference in the rates charged by the Palace contractor and those paid by the Director, he points out that some of the articles quoted in the Palace list can never be had for the contractor's prices.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I know whether there was any additional expenditure on account of buying and refining the *marotti* oil?

PRESIDENT: I thought we had done with *marotti* oil. (*Laughter.*) The Chief Secretary is speaking of some other thing now. Therefore that does not arise here.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Take for example *Kanmadam* (കൺമദം) or *Silajatu*. The Palace contractor's price was one rupee and twelve annas for 20 tolas in 1097, while

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the Director points out that according to the published catalogues, the price of genuine *Silajatu* is Rs. 2 per tola.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is the Chief Secretary aware that there are different kinds of *Silajatu*?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is exactly what the Director emphasises.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Will the Chief Secretary be pleased to say who tests the quality of the drugs supplied to the Palace?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The quality of the drugs supplied to the Palace is tested by competent men.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): What I want to know is whether they are certificate holders.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not know.

So, the prices as per the Palace contractor's list cannot be taken as a criterion in such matters. The allegation that the medicines supplied from the pharmacy are of inferior quality has no substance in it. Does the House seriously think that, if the quality of the medicine had been really inferior, medicines to the value of more than Rs. 10,000 would have been sold to the public from the pharmacy during the past 6 years?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): People must have medicine, and if they cannot get it from elsewhere, they must get it from the pharmacy.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): May I know the prices of medicines charged for the Ayurveda dispensary?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are being supplied at cost price.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): What is the total cost of the medicines supplied to the dispensary?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): In 1094, Rs. 4,917; in 1095, Rs. 7,499; in 1096, 9,000; and in 1098, 6,823.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Is it a fact that the sale of medicines has been declining for the past two years?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, there was a slight fall. In 1096, the fall came to Rs. 13,000; in 1097, to Rs. 11,000; and in 1098, to Rs. 10,000. It will be observed that there was a fall in 1098 in the number of persons treated.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether it is a fact that in certain cases medicines were supplied to the hospital at three or four times the actual price?

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government have not come across any such instances.

The allegation that the price of the medicine is comparatively high is equally unfounded. Two respectable members of this House were able to bear testimony——

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Was it not with respect to isolated instances ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am going to quote other instances also. I have compared the prices for some of the standard medicines in common use charged by the pharmacy and by a few private *Vaidyans* in Travancore and elsewhere. The rates are —

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): I beg to know whether milk does not form an essential necessity for preparing *dhanvantaram*.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not a doctor.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Do the accounts show that for the Ayurveda pharmacy any milk has been purchased ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not in a position to say anything definitely.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): If it could be proved that medicines requiring milk were prepared in the pharmacy and that no milk was actually purchased or supplied according to the accounts—

PRESIDENT: That is a problematical question.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a question which I cannot answer, as I am not a doctor.

PRESIDENT: It is time. You must hurry up, Mr. Krishna Pillai.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I shall give the prices for various articles in the pharmacy and in other places.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Is it from their price lists ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; it is from the published price lists.

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			Pharmacy Price. Rs. ch. c			ചരക്കുണ്ണ കൈവല്യശാല. Rs. as. p.			കൊട്ടക്കൽ പി. എ സ്സ്. വാരിയർ.		
1.	ധാന്വന്തരം തൈലം	12 oz.	1	8	0	2	8	0	3	0	0
2.	ധാന്വന്തരം കുഴമ്പ്	12 oz.	1	8	0	2	8	0	3	0	0
3.	ദിനേശകേരം	12 oz.	1	2	0	2	0	0			
4.	അസനവിലാദി	12 oz.	1	2	0	2	0	0	3	0	0
5.	ബലാഗുളീച്ചൂർണ്ണം	12 oz.	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0
6.	സുകുമാരഘൃതം	12 oz.	3	0	0	4	8	0	6	0	0
7.	ഗുൽഗുലുതിക്തകം	12 oz.	3	0	0	4	8	0	6	0	0
8.	ച്യവനപ്രാശം	1 lb.	1	16	0	4	0	0	4	0	0
9.	മഹാമൃഗരസായനം	1 lb.	1	0	0	3	8	0	5	0	0

Sita Ram Anglo Ayurveda Pharmacy.

			Rs.	as.	p.
1.	ധാന്വന്തരം തൈലം	12 oz.	3	12	0
2.	ധാന്വന്തരം കുഴമ്പ്	12 oz.	3	0	0
3.	ദിനേശകേരം	12 oz.	2	8	0
4.	സുകുമാരഘൃതം	12 oz.	3	0	0

These figures give the lie direct to the story that the prices charged by the pharmacy are excessive. As pointed out by Mr. Subba Aiyar, the story might have been concocted by interested native *Vaidyans* who find that they are unable to successfully compete with the pharmacy and therefore cry it down.

In regard to the complaint that no price list of the medicines sold from the pharmacy is available, I may point out to the House that a copy of the list is hung up for public information at the pharmacy. If its publication in the *Gazette* is considered necessary, it may be arranged for. The charge that the Government are incurring a loss on account of the pharmacy is untrue. The medicines supplied to the hospital are at cost price and those sold to the public fetch a profit of ten per cent. to the Government, so that there is no loss whatever on account of the transactions of the pharmacy.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know from the Chief Secretary the percentage of profit made by our private *Vaidyans*?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not aware of it.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*): Will the native physicians furnish information about the profits they make?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Not likely.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): Mr. Variar's catalogue does not contain the information. Will the Chief Secretary give us P. S. Variar's rate for *Dinēsakēram*?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The price for *Dinēsakēram* in our pharmacy is Re. 1 chs. 2 for 12 ounces while in the Sita Ram Anglo Ayurvedic Pharmacy it is Rs. 2 as. 8 for the same quantity.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Is the Chief Secretary aware that the medicines for the preparation of these things are available at a cheaper rate in Trivandrum than elsewhere?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not sure and cannot say for certain whether it is so.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): Is he aware whether, in computing prices of these medicines, supervision charges and rent are taken into account?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; in fact, as I said, no regular profit and loss account is being kept there.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is there any demand for these medicines from outside Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I am not sure.

RAO BAHADUR K. V. RANGASWAMI AIYANGAR (*Ag. Principal, Training College*): Is the pharmacy permitted to sell medicines by value payable post?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are not permitted to send medicines by value payable post.

Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai has also raised the question whether it is sound policy to maintain a pharmacy at Sirkar cost. I may tell the House that the Government keep an open mind in regard to this matter. As there is a Government Ayurveda hospital in Trivandrum and as Ayurvedic medicines of the requisite standard are not available in the open market like the allopathic medicines, a Government pharmacy has to be maintained. The suggestion to order medicines from Calcutta is not practicable. In the first place, all the medicines required in the hospital may not be available there. Secondly, the cost of getting them down would be very high. A pharmacy is also necessary as an adjunct to the students of the college for the purpose of giving them a course of training in the preparation of medicines. It would also prevent private *Vaidyans* charging excessive prices for medicines required by the public. But, if the House thinks that the system of selling medicines to the public may be stopped, there is no objection to this being done, the operation of the pharmacy being confined to the supply of medicines to the hospital and to the imparting of instruction to the students of the college.

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MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): May I know why there is a decline in the sale in spite of the low prices?

PRESIDENT: He has given the figures.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe I have now answered almost all the criticisms raised by the members on the other side of the House. I have shown that there are no serious defects in the working of the grant-in-aid *vydiasalas*, the Ayurveda College and the *Pathasala* and the Ayurveda hospital and the dispensary. The speeches made on the other side of the House referred to administrative defects. Even if they are true, it is the function of the Government to remove them.

MR T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Does it mean that this Council cannot consider administrative questions?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No, certainly not, and I did not mean that.

I have shown that there are no serious defects in the working of the Ayurveda College and Ayurveda dispensary, which necessitate the appointment of a committee. As regards the pharmacy, the Account Officer's inspection has disclosed certain defects and the whole matter is under the consideration of the Government. If any officers of Government are seriously to blame, Government must have an opportunity of taking their explanation and dealing with them in the ordinary course. On public grounds it would be obviously inexpedient to allow any committee to enquire into the conduct of those officers. The enquiry, if found necessary, should be held by the Government under the Regulation and rules in force. I would therefore request the House not to press for the appointment of a committee till the Government are in a position to consider the Account Officer's report and pass final orders thereon.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Does he mean to suggest that the appointment of such a committee as proposed by Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai is not within the province of this House?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not deny that it is within the province of this House.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industries, North*): Then seeing, that the Government have in the past appointed such committees, though, as in the case of the Kallar Resolution, there was a majority against the appointment of a committee, will the Government be pleased to say whether they do not consider it desirable to appoint a committee in this instance also, having regard to the large volume of public opinion in the matter.

PRESIDENT: It does not arise now?

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There are no serious defects so as to warrant the appointment of a committee. As for the pharmacy, the whole question is under the consideration of the Government. They must have time to consider the whole matter and pass final orders.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Have the Government considered the possibility of developing the Ayurvedic system in Travancore?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that the Government have not considered it. I have pointed out what the policy of the Government is in regard to the development of the Ayurvedic system.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Will not the Government be assisted by the advice of a committee in the matter of developing the system, if a competent committee is appointed, as they would be in a position to suggest suitable measures?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not deny that.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Do the Government propose to appoint departmental Ayurveda *vaidyans* on suitable pay?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a question to be considered.

PRESIDENT: Do you press this motion, Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): Yes; I press the motion to a division.

The motion was put to the vote and lost, 15 voting *for* and 17 *against*.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—17.

1. Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.
2. ,, N. Kumaran.
3. ,, T. Kumara Pillai.
4. ,, M. R. Madhava Variar.
5. ,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
6. ,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
7. ,, J. John Nidiri.
8. ,, Joseph Panjikaran.
9. ,, P. Paramesvaran.
10. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai *Tiruvalla*.
11. ,, M. N. Pillai.
12. ,, L. R. Raja Raja Varma.
13. ,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
14. ,, C. Sankara Menon.
15. ,, K. Dominic Tomman.
16. ,, T. K. Velu Pillai.
17. Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.

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NOES—18.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. ,, Paul V. Daniel.
3. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
4. ,, K. George.
5. ,, L. C. Hodgson.
6. ,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.
7. ,, R. Krishna Pillai.
8. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
9. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.
10. Mr. K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
11. ,, S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
12. ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Ag. Director of Agriculture*)
13. ,, W. H. Pitt.
14. ,, C. Ramankunju.
15. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
16. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
17. ,, V. Subba Aiyar.
18. ,, A. J. Van Ross.

The resolution was declared lost.

Appointment of a Committee to Enquire into the Working of the Development Departments.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Nedumangad*): Sir, I rise to move that:

"*This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of officials and non-officials be appointed to enquire into the working of the Development Departments, e. g., Agriculture and Fisheries, Industries, Co-operative Societies and Forests, and to suggest means by which better results may be obtained.*"

It is gratifying to see that the Travancore Government have realised to the full extent the necessity of developing the resources of the State with a view to national prosperity. The amount of money which is being willingly spent on the departments of education and public works and the growing interest evinced by the Government in strengthening the new bureaus of Agriculture, Industries and Co-operation are being thankfully appreciated by the people. Pronouncements have been made from time to time regarding the careful preservation of our resources within the forests and the effective and profitable utilisation of that abundant source of natural wealth. But the finances of the State have not improved and the material welfare of the people has not adequately advanced in spite of the increasing clamour on the part of the people and the readiness of the Government to devote the funds at their command to the realisation of their laudable object. The time has come when we should take stock of the results hitherto obtained and examine the soundness of the policy hitherto pursued.

I shall first deal with the Forest Department. It was first organised in the time of Dewan Sir T. Madhava Rao, and is therefore the oldest of the present Development Departments. What strikes one at the outset of the enquiry is the manner in which its net income continues to be influenced by inexplicable variations.

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